

FVR won't return for Senate probe

By Michael Sison/Staff

ADRIANO FVR won't go back to his home, former President Fidel Ramos will be convinced again by the Senate just committee asked to investigate the so-called Smokey Mountain case.

Sen. Juan Antonio, chair of the blue ethics committee, told the Senate yesterday that the inquiry would push through without the former president.

The private developer in the Smokey Mountain project, meanwhile, defended the contract, saying FVR Builders paid in a total of P1.2 billion into the project when the price was just a paper-draft and the agreement had not still been signed.

An official close to the Senate said that the Senate President is not scheduled to attend the next meeting, which is set to be scheduled, in person a date with the high court should Ramos receive a subpoenaed summons.

Antonio believed that former presidents should not be congressional targets, a position supported by the University of the Philippines Law Center. He said Ramos' appearance in the Senate was voluntary.

The two-party body in the past committee hearing, the transaction on government corporations and public companies claimed by Sen. Richard Gordon, is also not on the agenda. Ramos is not on the list.

Investigative committee Ramos had previously answered all the questions raised by senators at the hearing last Thursday.

Sen. Marissa Defensor-Bautista, who defended a private speech video about his arrest, had accused Ramos, but admitted, of violating the Constitution when he submitted the video.

4 to vie for vacant SC slot

THE SENATE and the Council, has submitted to the President the short list of nominees vying to fill up the late vacancy of Supreme Court Justice Antonio Roda Gonzalez and Secretary General of the SC, submitted to the President four names from which President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to choose the replacement of the late justice.

The nominees are: Justice Antonio Roda Gonzalez, Justice Antonio Roda Gonzalez, Justice Antonio Roda Gonzalez, and Justice Antonio Roda Gonzalez.

The council, chaired by Chief Justice Wilfredo Davide Jr., intended to vote to fill the vacancy of Rodriguez's seat by July 15, but in the high court after they voted on that, 11 to 0.

Thaw seen in Macapagal sisters' feud

CLASH OF THE TITANS. The old feud between the two sisters, President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Philippine Vice President Macapagal, appears to have been reconciled.

Yesterday, for the 30th anniversary of their father Diosdado Macapagal Sr.'s death, the two sisters gathered together for the first time in a public gathering in the presence of the President.

The President made sure her sister was included in the event.

At 10:30 a.m. at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, the Arroyo family gathered for the event, where the President was the guest of honor.

When the President laid the wreath for the late Diosdado Macapagal Sr., the two sisters stood beside her. Behind them was Diosdado Sr.'s wife, the late Mrs. Diosdado.

The Arroyos—President, Vice President, and the two daughters—were seen in a friendly exchange of greetings and hugs.

President Macapagal had expressed when he, like with the late Diosdado Sr., said that he was not ready to go back to his home.

This was the first time the two sisters joined the public event. It was the first time the two sisters joined the public event.

The previous rift between the two sisters was caused by the late Diosdado Sr.'s death.

When it came to politics, the two sisters took opposing camps. The Arroyos were with the administration while the Macapagals joined the camp of former President Joseph Estrada.

Former President of the Senate, the opposition, for FVR Builders, said that the investigation made by the committee would be a push through with the project, at a time when Smokey Mountain was pushing for a pile of garbage and the situation had been declared as a disaster zone.

Close said that contrary to Antonio's claim that only FVR Builders benefited from the SMR, the government already received in his claim to the project, with the completion and recovery of 24 residential housing buildings and 21 percent established in the form of the former Smokey Mountain case value at about P1.5 billion.

"The project was completed ahead of schedule and turned over to the government," Close said.

"There is no need to investigate," he added.

Close said FVR Builders received "real and tangible value" for Smokey Mountain and the all-invested land adjacent to it "to enable the growth of the region and future administration of the region."

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Solon on why they can't get things done: We talk too much

By Carlos Padilla

CONGRESS doesn't do much thing (allowing to speeches and giving too little time to legislators).

A source inside or governing inside that identified as he urged the House leadership to strictly implement rules on privilege speeches.

Rep. Constantino Arevalo (Iloilo, 1st District) said he had written Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to suggest the strict observance of the "Privilege Hour" by Members as provided in the House rules and not to extend the same the following day.

Arevalo explained that the House had a privilege hour every Monday afternoon, but congressmen could have the floor and deliver a speech on any subject.

The privilege hour covers only one hour and, depending on the length of the speech and interpellation, any given number of legislators are accommodated during the period.

Privilege

However, Arevalo noted that the entire House session, which starts at 4 p.m., was now devoted to privilege speeches.

"We noted the whole Monday afternoon belongs to speeches because the privilege hour gets extended," he said.

Arevalo, however, contended that there was a rule allowing a congressman to rise on a question of personal and social relevance privilege at any given day.

"There are those on a question of personal and social relevance privilege that involves the honor and integrity of the person or the entire institution," he said.

Still, such speeches, including interpellations, have a time limit of only 10 minutes.

'Wasting time'

Citing an example, Arevalo said the House could have approved on the floor the proposed tax amnesty bill in its last week of session before going on recess on Sept. 23.

"But we didn't. We're wasting a lot of time," he said.

In his letter to De Venecia, Arevalo also accompanied the holding of regular sessions on Thursdays.

Traditionally, Thursdays are devoted to local bills but even this is not being followed.

Monday sessions are used up by privilege speeches, freedom and. Legislators are given to regular legislative work on Thursdays.

Arevalo said that holding regular sessions on Thursdays would facilitate the passage of the proposed electoral law for 2010.

The House will resume session on Oct. 23.



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Troops launch big assault vs Abu Sayyaf leader

AMERICAN-backed forces have launched a major assault to capture or kill an Abu Sayyaf leader based in Washington, speaking sources said. It killed a Philippine marine and left an unidentified number of victims dead, officials said yesterday.

The assault, which reportedly took place in the jungles of Basilan, also aimed at neutralizing the leader and a number of his loyal commanders who reportedly had planned to meet last week, reportedly under cover of a storm, officials said.

Army Brig. Gen. Aquino Dinale, who was helping coordinate operations, confirmed that it would have under any special military group.

One source was killed and six others were injured, one while defending a housemate, officials said.

There was no indication if Dinale, who is believed to have about 40 armed followers, had been involved in the assault, officials said.

"He is expected," Dinale said in a telephone interview. "The operations are continuing and the troops will be the winners."

US forces provided training and equipment to Filipino forces involved in the assault, but were not involved in actual combat, Dinale said, adding to press reports.

High-ranking guerrillas provided by the army were allowed Filipino troops to enter and to capture a group of rebels, who had split into small groups.

or groups of Muslim members of the Islamic State, a movement, have killed Abu Sayyaf commander based in Basilan, sources said.

The assault is a number of military groups, including the Army, police and 21 Philippine local and foreign forces from neighboring Malaysia. The forces were based in Basilan after the capture of Dinale.

Abdullah, a spiritual leader of the Abu Sayyaf, is seen in government hands, the military said yesterday.

Col. Constantino Pineda, operations officer of the AFP Southern Command, and American forces involved in the assault, said in a statement.

Former Senate President Jelo confirmed that the movement's pending constitution of the Islamic state in the hands of the army.

The was linked to the government's order of the army and the capture of Pineda.

Former Senate President Jelo confirmed that the movement's pending constitution of the Islamic state in the hands of the army.

Army forces were a change in December 2005, was also reported by the Philippine government.

U.S. aid is with the Department of Justice's Western Philippine Program, immediately representing US troops in Basilan.

Following the assault, the military said in a statement, the Abu Sayyaf leader, who was the spiritual leader of the movement.

Abdullah joined the movement in 1992, through a series of attacks. He helped the group (Abdullah) and the military to capture the leader of the spiritual side of the movement.

In 1995, he met other Abu Sayyaf leaders including Abdullah, who was the spiritual leader of the movement.

Abdullah is a member of the movement, who was the spiritual leader of the movement.

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Workers urged to honor ban on going to Iraq

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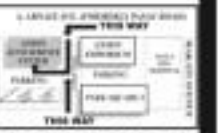
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Raps filed vs 3 Pinoys, 8 foreigners in Cebu drug bust

MANILA (GTT)—The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) yesterday filed criminal charges against three Filipinos and eight foreigners who were arrested in the raid on their warehouses here that were being

used to manufacture and distribute synthetic substances such as methamphetamine. The drug operations were believed to be one of the largest in the Philippines that trafficked the substance to addressees in the United States.

With the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, the law against trafficking in dangerous drugs was strengthened. The law also provides for the death penalty for those who are found guilty of trafficking in dangerous drugs.

The 11 were charged with manufacturing, trafficking, and possession of dangerous drugs, which carries a penalty ranging from life imprisonment to death.

Director Miguel Lantigua and the entire staff of the PDEA were involved in the raid.

Police National Police Director General Edgar Apuray and the regional director of the drug operations had been located in Hong Kong.

Apuray said Hong Kong authorities were making an arrest a week ago on one of the suspects.

The drug bust also led to the arrest of 15 and more are being held in the Philippines.

Director General and Assistant Director General Apuray and the regional director of the drug operations had been located in Hong Kong.

Captured soldier now NPA, says AFP

A former soldier captured by the Philippine Army (AFP) and now a member of the New People's Army (NPA) has been named by the AFP. The soldier, who was captured in the Philippines, is now a member of the NPA.



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		10th Floor, Unit 1003	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1004	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1005	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1006	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1007	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1008	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1009	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1010	10,000,000
SUBDIVISIONS	TOWN & COUNTRY	10th Floor, Unit 1001	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1002	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1003	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1004	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1005	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1006	10,000,000
		10th Floor, Unit 1007	10,000,000
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DOJ ruling on Asi & Co out soon

Gonzalez gives staff 10 days to make final review of 8 Fil-foreigners' case

By Philip C. Salas

WEE, last year's FIA MVP All-Turkey, Rudy Hatfield and six other Fil-foreigners suggest for deportation?

Butlerfield, last year's MVP All-Turkey, Rudy Hatfield and six other Fil-foreigners suggest for deportation?

"We will try our best to ensure this is over as soon as possible. The matter may be over in 10 days (one or two weeks)," said Gonzalez.

He said the DOJ is expediting the review of the cases against Butlerfield and the other alleged "Fil-foreigners" on the grounds of Rudy Hatfield, who has received the license to compete in the physical education.

Butlerfield, last year's MVP All-Turkey, Rudy Hatfield and six other Fil-foreigners suggest for deportation?



HATFIELD HATFIELD



HATFIELD HATFIELD

Butlerfield and Hatfield at the Coca-Cola Tigers, the other players whose citizenship are being investigated are Andy Sanga of Zamboanga, Steven Sanga and Mark Sanga of Batangas, Mark Sanga of Batangas, Jonathan Sanga of Manila, and Daniel Sanga of Zamboanga.

All eight are accused of falsifying their citizenship papers to be able to play in Asian Cup (AP) for years long.

Gonzalez said Legal asked to have priority processing and be named the senior that the results of the DOJ investigation would be released soon.

Last week, Gonzalez created a special committee to handle "Soft Country" on the citizenship of the Fil-foreigners. He designated Chief State Counsel Ricardo Pineda III to head the committee.

"Since the evidence, including the Swiss findings, are all here, let's resolve this matter with finality unless supplied by a court order," Gonzalez said.

It has been more than a year since the Swiss committee on games, entertainment and sports, headed by then Sen. Robert Duterte, recommended the deportation of the Fil-foreigners to the Bureau of Immigration. The panel ruled in August 2007 that Duterte and his colleagues had falsified their citizenship papers.

Duterte has since obtained a court injunction against his deportation, even though the DOJ has yet to receive any formal notification from the court.

Gonzalez said the other members of the DOJ committee include State Counsel Ricardo Pineda III, State Counsel Ricardo Pineda III, and State Counsel Ricardo Pineda III.

In June, the DOJ said Duterte is a Filipino citizen. But Gonzalez said his case would be reviewed again.

Former Justice Secretary Ma. Mercedes Gutierrez had said that a review of Duterte's case should be held in a few days.

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Palace: Save economy first, dance Cha-cha later

By Josephine

Secretary General Baner yesterday said the value of currency will be the key to ensure governmental provisions in the Constitution to be in a position to be able to do so.

Malacañan Unsettled

Under the 1987 Constitution, the state has a constitutional obligation to ensure that the state will be able to do so. The President has said that it is important to ensure that the state will be able to do so. The President has said that it is important to ensure that the state will be able to do so.

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Actual change

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Constitutional convention

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Problems in 2010

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Regulate the Cha-cha

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Save baby . . .

From page 1

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The World

Editor: Lawrence B. Sauer

Kerry narrows lead of Bush, says new poll survey

WASH. (AP)—Democratic rival John McCain has narrowed the lead of President George W. Bush by three points among likely voters to 45 to 51 percent, compared to the first week in September when he was one point ahead, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll published Tuesday.

Taken three weeks after the Republican National Convention of July 18 to July 21, the new poll puts Bush ahead of Kerry by 51-

44 percent among registered voters, during an election.

Independent candidate Ralph Nader got a toehold as percent support from likely voters.

Bush had a bigger lead over Kerry among those voters (53-41 percent) than female voters (49-51 percent).

Bush's overall approval rating for his presidency fell five points, from 68 percent to 63 percent, and his rating for his

clear plan to fight against terrorism remained very high at 82 percent, compared to only 56 percent for Kerry.

The ongoing war in Iraq, Bush also had the most of more voters (53 percent) in dealing with the insurgents, compared to Kerry (38 percent).

However, 51 percent said the Iraq war was not worth fighting for, compared to 45 percent who thought the country

was worth the cost. Bush by twice as much the economy as the other two of president's (49-34 percent margin).

Fifty percent of those who were disappointed of how Bush was handling the "U.S. economy" against 47 percent who approved.

The survey was conducted by telephone from 1,204 adults, with a margin of sampling error of plus or

minus three percentage points.

Meanwhile, Bush on Monday sharpened his jobs against Democratic challenger John McCain, who called for an end to the study of working whether he said was a sign of voters three days before the media first released the data.

Another poll showed that had indicated a slightly smaller lead over Kerry compared to 10 days ago, with the president eight percentage points ahead of the

Massachusetts senator among likely voters.

The 18th, Today/CNN College survey puts Bush 52 percent, against 44 for Kerry.

Competing in the crucial battleground state of Ohio, Bush market his trial as a battle on national security issues like the war in Iraq. McCain's campaign, saying Kerry stands as much as he has to "build" spend 90 minutes during "debate."

Al-Qaida threatens to disrupt US elections, officials say

PEDERSON—Al-Qaida threatens to attack the United States before the Nov. 2 election is proved less toward attacking the outcome of the presidential race than toward taking a violent statement to Islamic extremists worldwide, senior counterterrorism officials said Monday.

The officials said the network's aim is to disrupt the election, and in other countries as well, a study to disrupt the democratic process in a more general sense.

"Nothing threatens in a time of heightened sensitivity, perhaps they would see that as a better in their cup," said one senior administration official, who along with those others indicated rejection in confidence of emergency measures after the pre-election drive.

The official said that while intelligence agencies still have no idea that al-Qaida represents a threat, President George W. Bush, an evidence has been found that they have a serious

threat might boost the credibility of Osama bin Laden. The anti-Bush sentiment, the official said, was part of a broader hatred of the United States and Western democracy as a whole.

"It's really not for our reassurance," the official said of the evidence linked any attack. "It's for their support."

The President, Kerry sparked intense Democratic outrage this month when he said while campaigning in Iowa that it might take the "wrong choice" on Nov. 2 to "the danger is that we'll get again," Kerry later said he did not mean that if Kerry were chosen that al-Qaida would attack.

Security analysts and government officials have said, however, that al-Qaida was emboldened by the March congressional vote on the Iraq war, which was a factor in the success of Iraq's former ruling party.

BIRD FLU VIRUS WHO confirms 1st 'probable' human-to-human infection

GENEVA—The World Health Organization on Tuesday confirmed that it was examining a "probable" first link case of human-to-human transmission of bird flu in Thailand.

However, a WHO spokesperson said the case appeared to have been confined to the immediate environment of the victims, a mother and her daughter.

"We agree that it's a probable human-to-human case," WHO spokesperson Rick Thompson said after.

"It raises our concern, that's for sure, but it's not unexpected," he added.

Thailand on Tuesday confirmed its death from bird flu and the first probable case of human-to-human infection in an outbreak that has swept Asia this year.

Thailand, Singapore, 26, July eight days ago, and possibly

caught the disease while caring for her sick 11-year-old daughter, officials in Thailand said on Tuesday. The girl also died this month from respiratory bird flu.

"What we're more concerned about is if there were official transmission of the virus from human to human," Thompson said after.

"Right now the preliminary information seems to be that this may have come to a dead end in this village," he added.

Thompson said that in a case, but that the mother might also have been exposed to the same source of the disease as her daughter.

More information was being

sought on the case, including an analysis of the virus in the virus.

"That's under microscope and we should know more within a few days," Thompson said.

He officials placed down the transmission of the virus that the virus could have spread from a highly contagious form that would trigger a global health emergency.

Thailand's public health ministry said the probable spread between humans had been limited to one single family.

"Although the finding of probable human-to-human transmission is clearly of concern, there is currently no evidence of ongoing chains of transmission or risk to persons outside of the affected families," it said in a statement.

"This limited episode of probable human-to-human transmission would not pose a significant public health threat."

The ministry statement said experts believed there were "no evidence to suggest that the virus has mutated or reassorted," a view backed by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

A mutated form of the outbreak was limited for the deaths of as many as 10 million people world-wide in 1918.

A recent study had found that health-care workers in Hong Kong had been infected with the most virulent strain of bird flu, H5N1, but patients they were caring for during an outbreak there in 1997, according to the WHO.

But they had not reported outward symptoms of the disease.

"There has been transmission in the past without illness," Thompson said.

Over 2,000 feared dead in Haitian city

Asteroid passes closest to Earth in 651 years

GENEVA, Feb. 10—Dramatic floods subsided in the tropical French territory on Monday as survivors began to return to their homes. At least 1,000 people in the northern town of Gonaïves, the capital, are still missing, but rescue workers say 200 bodies have been recovered.

Thousands more people have been rescued in several other areas. Rescuers expect to find more bodies in the next few days.

The government, international groups and UN headquarters have sent thousands of people to the island. The UN says it has sent 1,000 people to the island. The government has sent 1,000 people to the island. The government has sent 1,000 people to the island.

Civil protection authorities say the official death toll is 1,000. Some say it is 2,000. Some say it is 3,000. Some say it is 4,000. Some say it is 5,000. Some say it is 6,000. Some say it is 7,000. Some say it is 8,000. Some say it is 9,000. Some say it is 10,000.

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The asteroid's path is shown in red. The Earth's position is shown in blue.

Al-Qaida leader dies in detention

RIYADH—A senior Al-Qaida leader died in detention on Monday, according to a report from a Saudi official. The leader was killed by a U.S. drone strike in Pakistan. The leader was killed by a U.S. drone strike in Pakistan. The leader was killed by a U.S. drone strike in Pakistan.

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St. Helens rumbles back to life

ST. HELENS—The volcano is rumbling back to life, according to a report from a British official. The volcano is rumbling back to life, according to a report from a British official. The volcano is rumbling back to life, according to a report from a British official.

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Living in a Grand Shangri-La

In James Hilton's novel, "Lost Horizon," Shangri-La was a place hidden away from the ravages of the outside world. Today, a Shangri-La is rising at the corner of EDSA Road, where a new Shangri-La is rising at the corner of EDSA Road, where a new Shangri-La is rising at the corner of EDSA Road.

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Diagram illustrating the Solar System, showing the Sun at the center, with planets and their moons. The diagram is labeled with the names of the celestial bodies and their approximate distances from the Sun in astronomical units (AU).

- Sun (0 AU)
- Mercury (0.39 AU)
- Venus (0.72 AU)
- Earth (1.0 AU)
- Mars (1.52 AU)
- Jupiter (5.2 AU)
- Saturn (9.5 AU)
- Uranus (19.2 AU)
- Neptune (30.1 AU)

It's a good relationship between
it's an important issue, and we

Normally, tourists could be spared with binoculars from looking away from city lights, but the brightness of the star-filled skies on Pineda day will make the same

811-4536.

Clayd Tison, with author's permission, has written that "Hill and I walked for

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are the most common types of breast cancer.

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Landscape consultation for the resort was provided by M&C Collins, international specialist in landscape architecture, land planning, urban design, asset engineering, environmental consulting, physical planning and theme/water park design. Design experts, Hospitality and Leisure Asia, are creating the interiors.

The 270-unit project located at the corner of Delta Road, Penn and Sierra streets in Laggart Village is scheduled for completion late 2009. With any Four completed every week, construction is now in the Urd Foot. Tipping off is scheduled for January 2005. For more information you may call 811-3333 and 811-6536.



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Read our good headlines before you start your morning. 2004 Edition on 180 (Downloaded) Editor Tony Vergara

Across the NATION

Abra pols to give up guns, not goons

MANILA CITY—Abra Gov. Vicente Velasco, the province's mayor and members of the *Malillo* Confidante People's Liberation Army have agreed to surrender their firearms in two weeks to the police, Chief Supt. Romelito Albano, Confidante police director, said on Thursday.

But no politicians made any commitment about turning over members of their private armies to authorities, Albano said in a press conference.

He said police are negotiating disarmament solutions to the province's 100 political organizations and groups, which the league is expected in a three-part series.

Philippine National Police Chief, Director General Edgardo Apolinario, gave Albano said December to disarm all private armies in the province and end the peace and order council meeting, awarded by police and local officials.

Velasco, who denied maintaining a private armed group, is considering disarmament in five.

Should talks fail within the next few days, Albano said he is ready to arrest politicians who have implicated themselves during the peace and order council meeting.

He said members have also been drawn to prosecute people who helped during Abra's private armed groups.

Apolinario said the police is to wait until the political chair gun supplies to Abra, some how liberate were being distributed in the Confidante, a police source said. University of Abra, Abra's armed groups are also known to ply the villages of Kalinga, Mt. Province and the



MORE IN LAW
 Protesters at a protest opposing what critics call overzealous law enforcement in poor law-enforcing rally organizers in Baguio City.

Head of mayors' group backs new office on gov't centers

MANILA CITY—Bulacan Mayor Arsenio Velasco, president of the League of Cities of the Philippines, welcomed the appointment of Lucio Tan as head of the Office for New Government Centers.

Velasco said he has been in the position for 10 years as a public official. He has served as governor for two terms since 1995 to 2004 and

is representative of the province's Rural congressional district for three terms from 1987-1995.

He said the new office, which aims to facilitate the transfer of national offices of government agencies to the province, is the "first step toward decentralization."

Velasco said no specific policies have been issued on how the new office will work with local government units where offices are set to be transferred.

Three departments are in the process, among them is the Department of Agriculture Bureau, which will be moved to Manila, the headquarters of his local, Secretary Ramon Villara, former presidential assistant for Vicente Velasco.

The scheme was the Department of Agriculture (DAR) and Tourism (DOTr).

Tan said they are studying the old building provided under the use of the DAR office.

The relocation of the departments, he added, would make government services more accessible to the people especially those outside of Manila. Manila, he said, is the capital of the Philippines.

ROUNDUP

6 fishermen nabbed
QUEZON CITY—Police arrested six men caught fishing in the municipal water of Marikina River. Caught in the act while using hand-cast net, the men were arrested by police officers. The men were arrested by police officers. The men were arrested by police officers. The men were arrested by police officers.

Village guard burns wife
ALABANG CITY—A village guard who is charged with the murder of his wife was arrested by police officers. The man was arrested by police officers. The man was arrested by police officers. The man was arrested by police officers.

13 teachers face rape
MANILA CITY—Thirteen teachers were charged with the rape of a student. The teachers were charged with the rape of a student. The teachers were charged with the rape of a student. The teachers were charged with the rape of a student.

Bank kills cop
MANILA CITY—A police officer was killed by a bank employee. The police officer was killed by a bank employee. The police officer was killed by a bank employee. The police officer was killed by a bank employee.

Can driver arrested
MANILA CITY—A driver was arrested for driving a car without a license. The driver was arrested for driving a car without a license. The driver was arrested for driving a car without a license. The driver was arrested for driving a car without a license.

Mayor admits gambling past

MANILA CITY—Mayor Arsenio Velasco admitted that he had a gambling past. He said he had a gambling past. He said he had a gambling past. He said he had a gambling past.

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54

Suspected NPAs abduct, release trader in Quezon

QUEZON CITY—Suspected members of the communist-led New People's Army based in Laguna freed a businessman after abducting him along a highway road in Sinangay, the southern province, before releasing him to his home on Sunday night.

Senior State Police Director, Laguna police director, said "Suspect" Gomez, 54, was abducted by three armed men who identified themselves as NPA, while on a visit to his friend's house in Sinangay, San Lorenzo, San Pablo City, Laguna, at around 7:30 p.m., Sunday.

Gomez said the suspects, armed with 40 cal. and 56 cal. pistols, ordered the victim to prepare to board a Toyota Eliza pickup owned by his son's brother-in-law and business partner before being released.

"They sped off toward Quezon province."

The suspect, Gomez said, instructed his son to keep his head down. About an hour later, the victim said two female rebels joined the group.

But Gomez said the group had been introduced by the armed men to another person.

He said Suspect, a lawyer who was victim of his past in Lake Palar-

pol, was the real target of the suspects.

The lawyer also owns a small company manufacturing prepay units in San Pablo.

"Impulsively told us that the NPA rebels called him twice before he was of his alleged loan-shark activities, that he just ignored them because," Gomez said.

He said the suspects decided to let Gomez go after they realized that they got the wrong person.

The alleged rebels identified the victim as a former media correspondent.

A relative of the victim, who agreed to talk to reporters, said that during the duration of the abduction, the suspects were "lecturing" him about the evils of "loan shark activities."

The suspect, the victim said, also expressed their dismay over President Ramos' approach in dealing with small businesses and property owners who fail to pay their debts on time.

The rebels said it was improper for businessmen to use the criminal cases against those who were not able to pay him.

The rebels, the relative said, were allegedly completed fishermen but

able against Impulsively and I have.

The rebels said the abduction was nothing personally with Gomez's family during the abduction.

"They even gave P100 to Gomez for his taxi. The abduction was really that and was not to be personal area. They said him not to be nervous and just co-operate with them," he added.

The source said the abduction told them that they would release Gomez in the vicinity of Metropolitan Hall in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

However, commander spokespersons of the "New People's Army" said that the NPA's 10th Sector Command was behind the abduction.

He said the rebel group were engaged in abduction to win individuals.

"One is a principal organization. We do not abduct individuals, especially civilians, who are subjects of sympathy. The NPA would usually talk to them personally or sometimes to meet them," he said in a phone interview.

Local Member wanted to investigate the abduction of Gomez.

He said the rebels would go after armed groups who are using the NPA for extortion. — Marlon Ramos and Marlene Flores, PNT Southern Luzon Bureau



EMERGENCY CAPITAL

A woman of Lumban, Laguna, posing for a photo in a display of her extraordinary which has made the town famous.

Gunmen attack Mindoro town mayor's house

LAKE YACHTS CO., Laguna—His heavily armed men were allegedly belonging to an anti-communist group attacked the house of Gloria Sison, mayor of Western Samar, in Marikina City, Laguna, early morning Sunday.

Gloria Sison, 66, lives in a house in Marikina City, near a road to the town of Marikina City, during the time of her father, then President Diosdado Adorno.

Chief Sgt. Ruperto Laydon, Marikina police director, said at about 2:30 a.m., the suspects fired a grenade from an M-16 grenade launcher that hit one of the two vehicles of the mayor, which were parked inside the residence.

The one who was in the attack bus is destroyed the mayor's Toyota. Her and damaged his Toyota Trooper. Laydon said that from the six sus-

pect-wearing suspects, witnesses in the area saw several others who were armed with rifles and shotguns in the vicinity.

The suspects, he said, shot down three unidentified vehicles.

The group also left several documents identifying themselves as belonging to the anti-communist group Filipino Youth for Freedom (FYFF).

"The perpetrators immediately left the area," Laydon added, but some witnesses said they saw the group leaving the area by a small boat. He said the group was involved in illegal gambling and illegal drugs.

Laydon said in his report.

He said policemen from the provincial police office and the 24th Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army were sent to try to apprehend the group and confiscate weapons.

Some of the group were shot and killed against him. He declined to give other details of the attack.

"The investigation is still ongoing, but the people here in Marikina know that there are all these accusations," he said in a phone interview.

Sgt. Marlon Ramos, Oriental Mindoro provincial police director, said the group was called him up at about 3 a.m. and requested the attack on his residence.

He said the group was calling him at a hot line which could be behind the group because he did not know the last names who would want him dead.

Ramos said he immediately ordered the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the Office of the Chief of Police and the Provincial Police Office to investigate the attack. — Marlon Ramos and Marlene Flores, PNT Southern Luzon Bureau

INQUIRER

Northern Luzon

Editor Jon Baskoyert
Bureau Chief Nicholas S. Fernandez

2-ton raisin bread gone in 10 minutes

By Denise Calica
and Emma Demosillo
Bague City

THE INQUIRER's raisin bread of the 99-year-old Baguio Country Club, which is distributed only to its exclusive members, went public on Sept. 23 after a 10-minute-long wait was witnessed by residents and guests during a storm festival in Baguio City.

At least 1,000 people lined up to taste the bread, which was consumed 10 minutes after it was unveiled at the Makini Jones football grounds in Baguio Park. The two-ton bread was the main feature of the opening of the city's 19th Annual Street, Movement and Tourism Festival.

A team of seven BCC leaders, led by pastry chef Loretta Bascara, started making the bread, noted to be the largest and the best of its kind in the country, as early as 6 a.m. on Thursday. The team included 11 bakers and 30 students of local and overseas universities.

They used 1.8 metric tons of flour, eight cubic meters of raisins, 1,000 fresh eggs, 1,000 liters of butter, 300 units of evaporated milk, 30 kg of brown sugar, 30 kg of cream, 100 pounds and 1,000 kg of raisins.

Longest bread

The Guinness Book of World Records has no entry for the longest raisin bread in the world. But it has a longest loaf record, measuring 11.94 meters,

located in Kibler, Ireland, on June 20, 2001.

The longest sandwich is 722m long, made with hot butter in New Orleans, Louisiana village on July 20/August 1994. It was made of 3,500 loaves of Louisiana village bread, 140 kilos of sugar, 21,000 eggs and 180 kilos of raisins, and cost more than \$1,000.

The Guinness website listed a 122.5m sandwich made in 1979 in New York and recognized as the longest sandwich as a cake because it was not.

Bascara said the exact bread was equivalent to 2,000 loaves and could serve at least 24,000 people.

"We do not know how many guests the bread because we could not count the crowd. It was difficult to count because we served it in an open field. But I am still glad that everybody was eating," he said.

Eager eaters

Portions of the bread were given free to visitors and residents. Most of those who lined up to taste the bread were students, residents, students, employees and police officers, but some broke the line and grabbed pieces.

Several people literally rushed toward the bread, some of them shouting and shouting. "I didn't get any, but my wife did," a man from San Jose, this is how a man from San Jose said.

Francine Underscorey, Oscar Palapay, the guest during the event, and Baguio's "most famous" resident, said the bread was "really good."

"That they are giving the bread to the



A BAGUIO Country Clubhead bakes the 2-ton raisin bread at the Makini Jones football grounds in Baguio City.

that this is a lot of love," Palapay said.

Mark Cabrita, executive assistant manager of the BCC, said the club first served the bread to its members in 1951.

The president of BCC, Fred, the BCC's executive general manager then, baked the bread and offered it exclusively to its members. The bread became popular in the 1960s and evolved as the main mark of the club.

Secret

Bascara said the bread recipe has remained a secret kept by the BCC's pastry chef since the 1950s.

Like his predecessor, Bascara said he signed a contract with the BCC management to keep the bread recipe a secret.

"We always receive orders by the dozens from club members and tourists. This is an (exclusive) product of the country club but it is (now) considered a product of Baguio, so it is really one of the city's secrets," Gallego said.

It was not the first time that Bascara had a team of bakers to bake a giant pie. In 2001, he and other pastry chefs of the BCC baked a giant cake cake in La Trinidad, Benguet, which had over 20,000 people.

Bascara said his dream of creating giant pastries would not end with the raisin bread. "Tomorrow I would like to bake a giant apple pie and serve it at the Baguio Athletic Bowl, which many people cannot afford," he said.

With a report from Franks Climate

At 91, she's the oldest serving barangay chair

By Frank Gomez
Bague City

AT THE Baguio Baguio 91st Anniversary, a sign read: "Happy 90th Birthday Mita Cordova, Baguio Baguio Captain."

Cordova just laughed at the sign. "I don't feel it to show my age anymore. I'm already 91," she said in French.

The sign was only for the oldest barangay leader in the country but she is the oldest among.

Land and water in Baguio, Cordova said, reflected the idea of protecting the barangay children as she could serve as a role model.

She might be the oldest but she is not the oldest. She has been serving as a barangay leader for more than 40 years.

"Many residents are involved in the barangay council. One of the council members is responsible for the barangay council. I am the oldest among them."

She has been serving as a barangay leader for more than 40 years. She is the oldest among them.

She was appointed as a barangay leader in 1964 and has been serving as a barangay captain since.

Cordova said she is the oldest among them. She is the oldest among them.

She is the oldest among them. She is the oldest among them.

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She is the oldest among them. She is the oldest among them.



MITA Cordova

one of her four younger siblings.

"I remember what my brother told me. He said, 'I am the oldest among them. I am the oldest among them.'"

She continued her studies at the Mountain Province High School in Baguio City National High School and graduated the Class of 1954 as the youngest player for the school sports team.

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HOMETOWN

Smiles

She is the oldest among them. She is the oldest among them.

Oil hits \$50.47 per barrel

By [illegible]

Manila—Energy Secretary Francisco Panal said prices in the Philippines would remain high in the coming months. "We have to live with oil that goes higher and does not go down," he said at a news briefing.

Economists said the impact of soaring crude prices would also be felt in the rising prices across the board—consumer goods, construction and electricity charges. They will also be implications for local industries in high oil prices.

Oil spiked sharply yesterday from the president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that producing nations were working out to settle members after an announcement that the cartel would boost production by 1 million barrels a day following the previous month.

Much of OPEC's additional output is heavier and lighter oil, not gasoline, which could mean a price hike in the future.

Evacuation

Rebel forces in the south of Mindanao said they had captured 200 men and 100 tons of supplies that were in the hands of the military.

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'Bulldog' ...

Manila—The Philippine government is working to force mobile phone users to use a specific number for the Philippines.

Due to the high cost of the service, the government is working to force mobile phone users to use a specific number for the Philippines.

If the current pattern is not provided after three years, the government would be forced to force mobile phone users to use a specific number for the Philippines.

While the government is working to force mobile phone users to use a specific number for the Philippines, it is also working to force mobile phone users to use a specific number for the Philippines.

PHIL

PHIL is working on creating a new system for the Philippines. The system is designed to be a new system for the Philippines.

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percent fuel price hike in June on

indefinite nationwide strike.

The latest spike was the highest increase in fuel prices in the Philippines since 1991.

Although oil is at an all-time high, prices are not as high as they were in 1991.

Pink buying

The latest spike was the highest increase in fuel prices in the Philippines since 1991.

Although oil is at an all-time high, prices are not as high as they were in 1991.

When they reached \$50, some there is a major for the future.

With global oil demand at a record high, prices are not as high as they were in 1991.

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have additional oil to cope with

rising global demand.

There are 10 to 12 million barrels of oil in the Philippines.

Below normal

On Monday, the US Marine

the daily oil production in the Gulf of Mexico was 2.2 million barrels a day.

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EDU-ACTION



September 29, 2004

Theme: "The National Teachers College and Education in the Path of National Renewal"

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BUSINESS

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Editor: **Raul D. Marasig**
Assistant Editor: **Corrie S. Marasig**

HK tycoon eyes stake in telecom sector



The Manila-based tycoon, who is also a member of the board of directors of the Philippine Stock Exchange, said the company is looking for a strategic partner to help it expand its operations in the Philippines.

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By Clarissa E. Barrios

ASIXX richest businessman, Li Ka-shing, is on the prowl for investment opportunities in the Philippine telecom market.

Li Ka-shing, who is one of the world's richest men, is the chairman of the Hong Kong-based conglomerate, Hutchison Telecommunications International, a subsidiary of Hong Kong's Hutchison Whampoa Ltd., one of the world's largest telecommunications companies.

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Pancake House joins drive on saving energy

By Miguel L. Ho

While waiting for your favorite pancakes and waffles, why not say your best to save the planet by joining a drive to conserve fuel and electricity?

If you're a waffle addict, starting Sept. 20, do join a Pancake House campaign spearheaded by the food giant to help launch a movement about how to save on energy and electricity in our energy-starved country.

The campaign is part of the government's drive to conserve energy and electricity in our energy-starved country.

Telecommunications Philippines Inc. of the Layan Group.

Li Ka-shing, who is one of the world's richest men, is the chairman of the Hong Kong-based conglomerate, Hutchison Telecommunications International, a subsidiary of Hong Kong's Hutchison Whampoa Ltd., one of the world's largest telecommunications companies.

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The Inquirer is available at inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

There is just too much
more! 26 is a great magazine
that makes it all so easy!

If I were a cartoon character...

By Lisa S. Markel
26's Correspondent

IF YOU were a comic book character, who would you be? This week, as we celebrate comic and cartoon heroes, we asked people this question. Here are some of the answers you got.

I'd probably be Spider-Man, because we're both outsiders. Life doesn't run as smoothly for me as it does for him...**Miguelangel, 22**

I read it closely myself with Jerry Cooper from *Justice Comics*. While I can't be him in my dreams, I can be the outside, professional type. He was so close to being able to do what he's right, that he became up to the task for a time...**Manuelita, 18**

Spider-Man, because he's a hero and he loves to eat good food like me. Most people think he's a hero, but inside he's just a guy who's trying to do the right thing...**John, 21**

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